



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 30, 2002

H.R. 3380

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 22, 2002

H.R. 3380 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The bill would limit new permits to three specific sites within the park. Any permits issued under the bill would be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary establishes, including requirements to protect and restore federal lands during pipeline construction.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3380 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. According to the National Park Service, the agency probably would collect fees for the right-of-way permits; hence, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. Based on information from the agency, however, we estimate that any increase in offsetting receipts from such fees would total less than \$500,000 a year.

H.R. 3380 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On August 16, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1097, similar legislation, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on August 2, 2001. The bills are substantively similar, and our cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.